The Chronicles of the Grim Peddler
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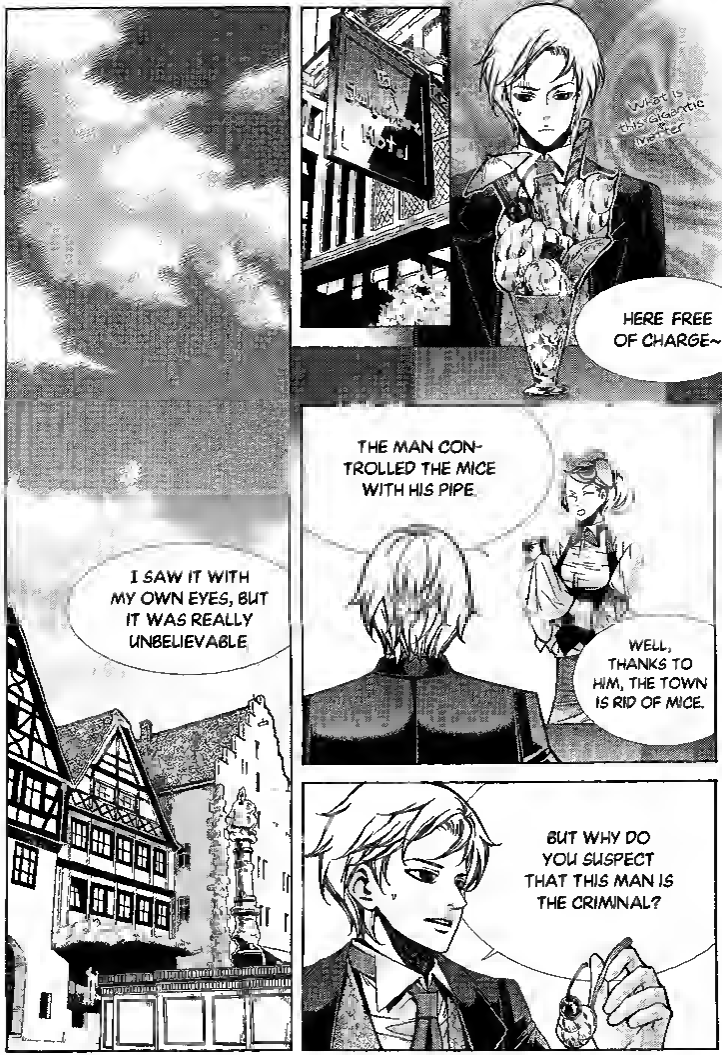
Volume 5 Chapter 25

The Pied Piper
Act 25.
Story/Maru

WELCOME
I AM A DETECTIVE DISPATCHED FROM THE TOWN. MY NAME IS ABEL.
FOR SUCH TERRIBLE THINGS TO HAPPEN UNDER MY JURISDICTION. I CANNOT EVEN SLEEP BECAUSE THIS CASE.
ANYWAY, I LEAVE THIS IN YOUR CARE.
YES SIR.


I SAW IT WITH MY OWN EYES, BUT IT WAS REALLY UNBELIEVABLE.
What is this gigantic mouse?
HERE FREE OF CHARGE~
THE MAN CONTROLLED THE MICE WITH HIS PIPE.
WELL, THANKS TO HIM, THE TOWN IS RID OF MICE.
BUT WHY DO YOU SUSPECT THAT THIS MAN IS THE CRIMINAL?

OF COURSE, AT FIRST I THOUGHT HE WAS SOME KIND OF SAVIOUR...
BUT AS THE MICE DISAPPEARED, THE CHILDREN DID SO AS WELL
.....
ARE YOU THINKING THAT IF HE CAN CONTROL MICE WITH HIS PIPE THEN HE CAN DO THE SAME WITH HUMAN CHILDREN?
?!!!
WELL... THAT'S A PRETTY CONVINCING THEORY

MAN? O..OR WOMAN?
YOU'RE DETECTIVE ABEL, RIGHT?
EH...? HOW DID YOU...

THE DISAP-
PEARING
CHILDREN'S
CASE...
DID YOU KNOW IT
ALSO HAPPENED TO
A NEIGHBOURING
VILLAGE?
THE SAME
THING...?
WAIT! WHO
ARE YOU?
HOW DID YOU
KNOW...!
CLING

SHIT!
WHERE DID HE GO?
DID CHILDREN DISAPPEAR FROM THIS TOWN?

THUNK
H..HOW DID YOU..?
WHY DIDN'T YOU REPORT THE CASE?
AS EX-PECTED..
WITCH..?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? A WITCH?
WE COULDN'T..! THIS IS PROBABLY THE DOING OF THAT WITCH..!
IF WE CALL A NEIGHBOUR FOR HELP, SHE'LL RAISE A GREATER CURSE..!!

THE MAN WHO CHASED AWAY THE MICE... HIS NAME...
WAS ROLAND
ROLAND..?
THE CHILDREN DISAPPEARANCE CASE HAS HAPPENED ALSO IN A FEW VICINITIES
THEY ALL SHARE ONE POINT.
!
A... A POINT! AND WHAT WOULD THAT BE?!

IT'S STILL JUST A CONVICTION. I WILL SAY IT AFTER MORE INVESTIGATION.
.....
HOTEL
Markusilla
RESTAURANT
WHAT A WEIRD CASE..
I HEARD THIS AREA HAS HAD A DROUGHT FOR A FEW YEARS NOW AND THAT HARVEST WAS POOR
BUT FOR IT TO BE INFESTED WITH SO MANY MICE..

.....
THE SOUND OF A PIPE?!

HOW CAN I HEAR A PIPE FROM SO FAR AWAY?!
IT'S THERE! THE CHARNEL HOUSE...!

THE PIPE...
STOPPED
?

AHHH
Whoa
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
HUHUHU...
THE MICE DON'T ATTACK HUMANS

Y, YOU ARE...!
BUT, BECAUSE THEY'RE STARVED, THEY'LL EAT CORPSES
AHHH
squeak squeak
THE PIPE IN YOUR HAND... ARE YOU THE ONE WHO CONTROLLED THE MICE WITH THAT PIPE?

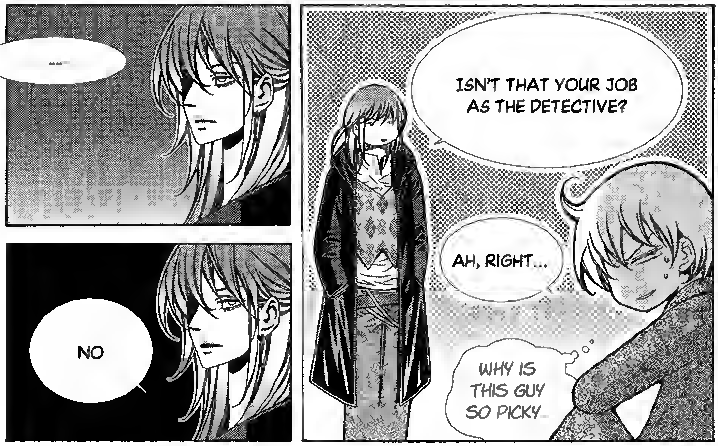
YES.
WHY DO YOU CONTROL THE MICE?
THE PIPE MAKES A SOUND THAT THE MICE HATE.
DID YOU... KIDNAP THE CHILDREN?
WHILE THE TOWN WAS IN CHAOS BECAUSE OF THE MISSING MICE, DID YOU KIDNAP THE CHILDREN?!

PERHAPS...

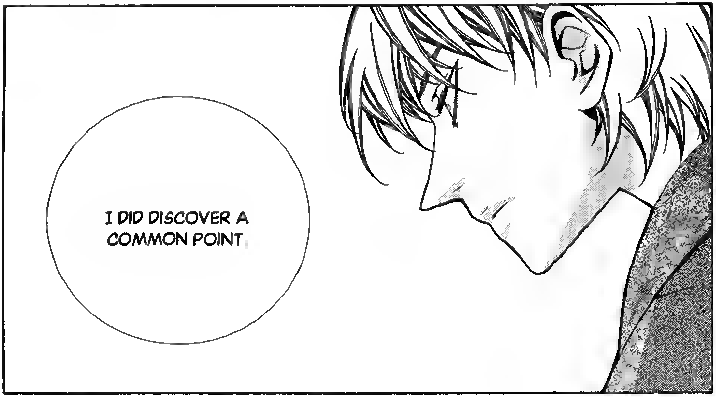
BUT A SUSPECT WOULDN'T HAND HIMSELF IN FOR INVESTIGATION.
AS I THOUGHT...

IT WAS YOU. YOUR NAME WAS THE SAME AS THE ONE ON THE LETTER SO I THOUGHT IT COULD BE YOU.
MISTER ROLAND.

THERE WAS A CASE OF CHILDREN DISAPPEARING IN MY TOWN TOO.
A SIBLING OF MINE ALSO DISAPPEARED BUT THE DISTRICT GOVERNORS DIDN'T CARE ABOUT ONE OR TWO MISSING CHILDREN.
SO I STARTED GOING FROM TOWN TO TOWN, CHASING OUT THE MICE FOR A LIVING.
BUT AS I DID SO, I FOUND OUT THAT THE SAME THING WAS HAPPENING ALL OVER THE PLACE.
WHEN YOU WERE WANDERING FROM TOWN TO TOWN... DID YOU FIND THE SUSPECT?

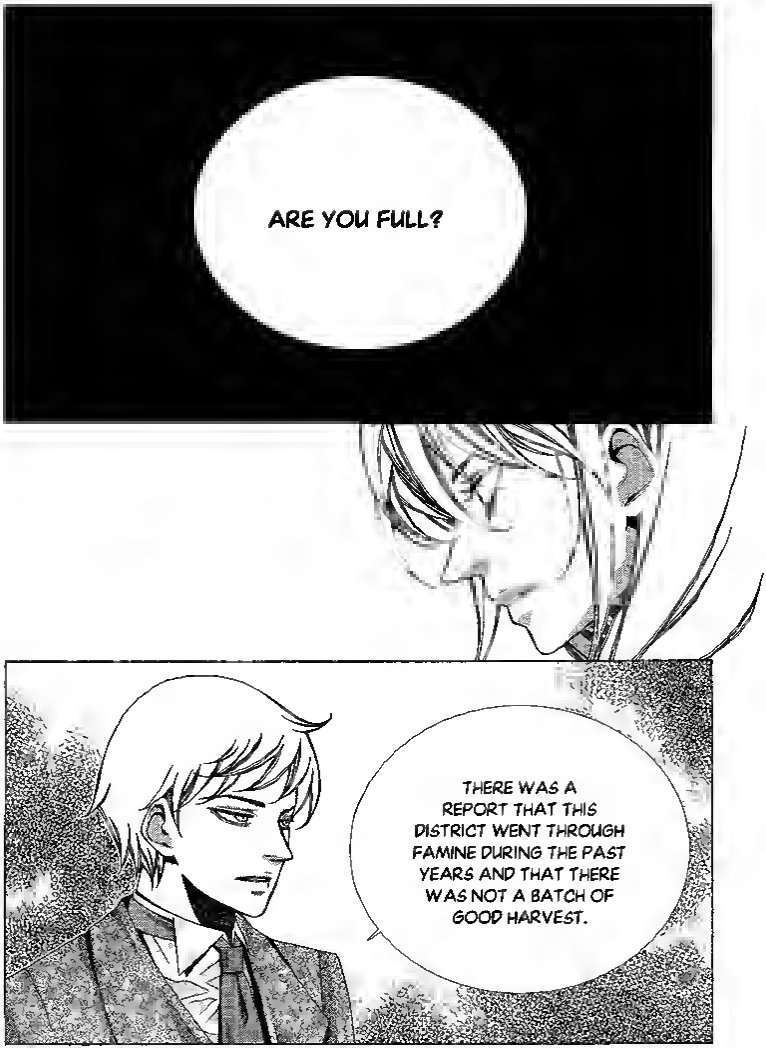


BUT ONE THING..



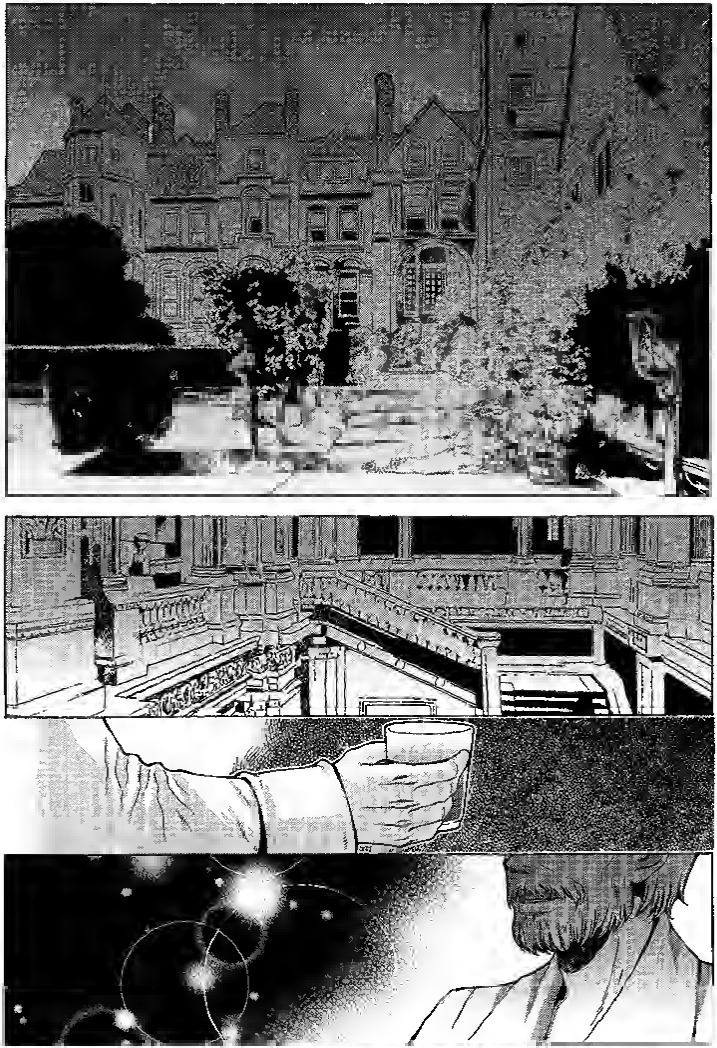
WHO...
I... I MET YOU THIS MORNING...
I'M SORRY FOR THE DISTURBANCE AT NIGHT BUT I HAVE A FEW MORE QUES TIONS TO ASK
I'VE GOT NOTHING MORE TO TELL YOU!

W...WHAT IS THIS..!
EXCUSE ME
AH~ I GUESS THERE WAS SOME GOOD HARVEST THIS YEAR
NOT ONLY IS THE STORAGE FULL OF WHEAT, BUT YOUR HOMES TOO...
T...THAT'S RIGHT! NOW PLEASE LEAVE!


ARE YOU FULL?
THERE WAS A REPORT THAT THIS DISTRICT WENT THROUGH FAMINE DURING THE PAST YEARS AND THAT THERE WAS NOT A BATCH OF GOOD HARVEST.

BUT WHAT I'VE DISCOVERED UPON MY ARRIVAL HERE... STORAGES FILLED WITH WHEAT..
WELL, THERE WERE A FEW CASES WHERE ONE OR TWO CHILDREN WOULD BE ABANDONED BECAUSE OF FAMINE...
BUT YOU'RE WORSE THAN THAT.
!!
YOU FILL YOUR STOMACHS THROUGH THE BONES AND SKINS OF THESE CHILDREN.
NOW, TELL ME.

WHERE ARE THE CHILDREN?

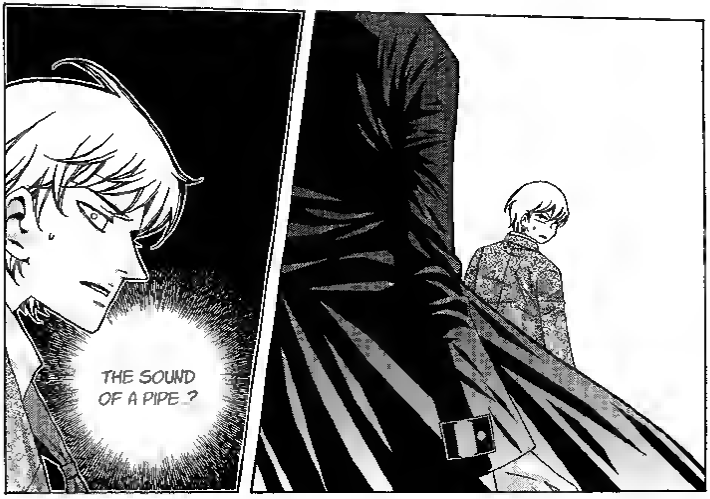


NOW, NOW .
COME HERE... MY LITTLE MUNCHKINS..
I'LL GIVE YOU SOME GOOD TREATMENT TONIGHT
STOP RIGHT THERE, YOU OLD PERVERT.

GET AWAY FROM THOSE KIDS NOW.
H...HOW DID YOU...!!!
IT WAS OUR ONLY WAY... IF IT CONTINUED THAT WAY... WE WOULD'VE ALL DIED...!
YOU BOUGHT THOSE CHILDREN FROM POOR VILLAGES AND DID UNSPEAKABLE THINGS TO THEM
BUT THEN... THAT PERSON APPEARED...

THEN THE CHILDREN STARTED DYING...
BUT, BECAUSE THEY'RE STARVED, THE MICE WILL EAT CORPSES.
BECAUSE OF THE OVERWHELMING CORPSES, THE MICE APPEARED
CLANG
OUT OF THE WAY.
EEK!
THESE CHILDREN ARE NOT DEAD YET. THEY'RE ONLY PARALYZED BY MY MEDICINE

YOU DAMN OLD MAN, YOU JUST KEEP PERSISTING...!

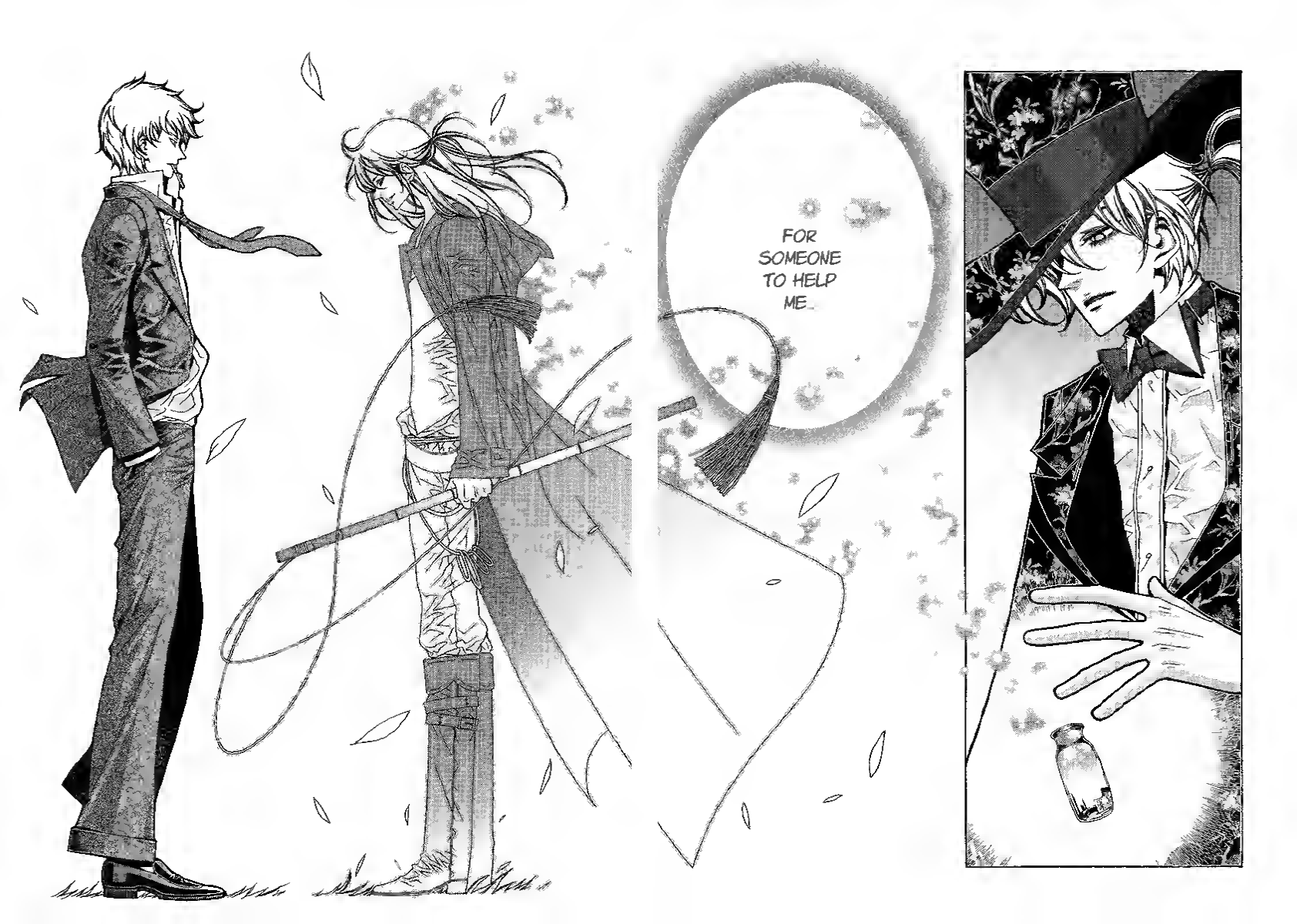

THE SOUND OF A PIPE...?

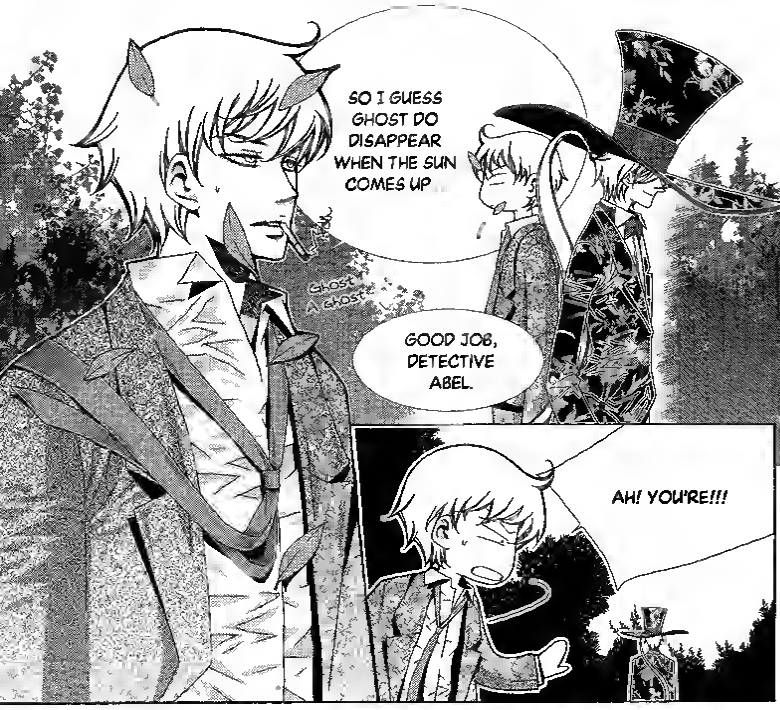
Y...YOU'RE!!!

Y...YOU'RE DEFINITELY THAT KID FROM...!!!
?
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
!!
G....GO AWAY!
AHHH

Ahhh—
THANK YOU, DETECTIVE ABEL.

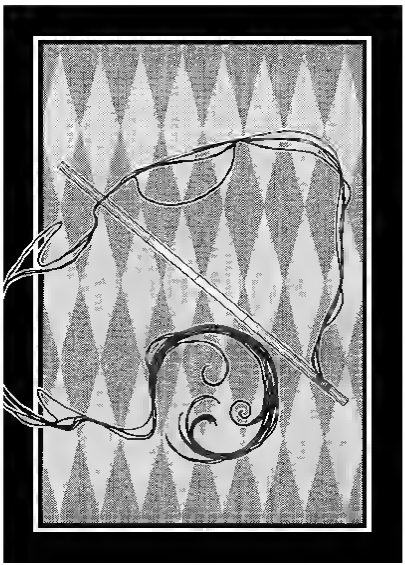
I THINK MY BROTHER CAN ALSO REST IN PEACE NOW.
YOU DIDN'T REALLY HAVE A BROTHER, DID YOU?
.....
MISTER PIPER.
I WAS WAITING...

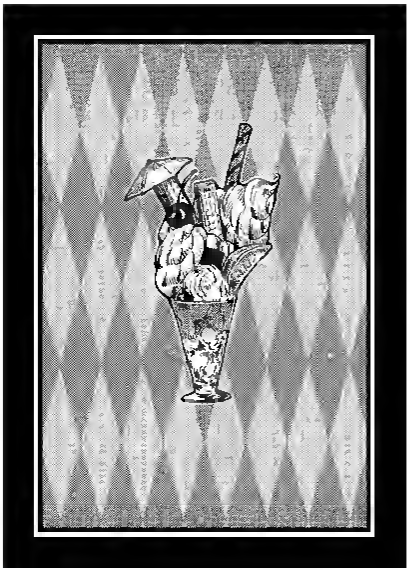

FOR SOMEONE TO HELP ME...


SO I GUESS GHOST DO DISAPPEAR WHEN THE SUN COMES UP
GHOST
A GHOST!
GOOD JOB, DETECTIVE ABEL.
AH! YOU'RE!!!

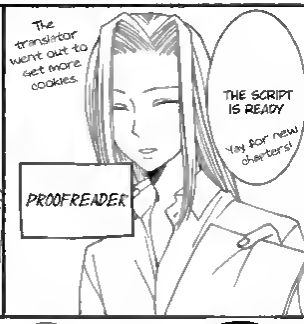
HEY! WAIT FOR ME!
HUH?! HE DISAPPEARED AGAIN!!

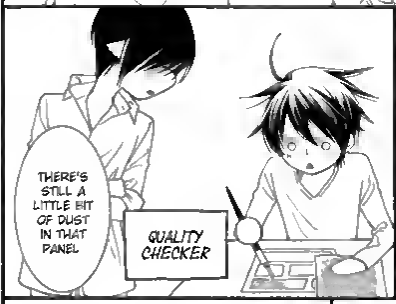
End

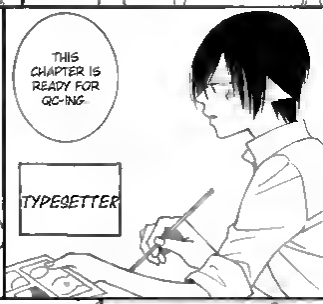


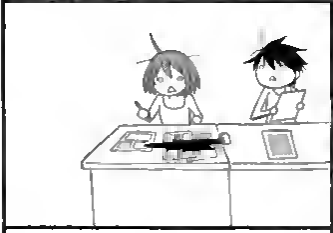


Work At Evil Flowers









AH! THE TRANSLATOR FORGOT TO TRANSLATE THIS SFX.
YOU NOISY PEST. WHO CARES?!
NO ONE'LL NOTICE IT!
THIS BUBBLE IS NOT CENTERED LET ME FIX IT
AH
SHUDDUP! DON'T TOUCH IT!
BUMP

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- Proofreaders
- Editors (Cleaners / Typesetters)
- Quality-Checkers

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